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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1908.

THE SUPFRAGE DECISION.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court announced in yesterday's Times-Dispatch in the case of Jackson W. Giles vs. the Board of Registrars of Montgomery county, Alabama, awakened the keenest interest in Richmond and was generally discussed. This man Giles, who says that he represents five thousand other negro adults in Montgomery county, has brought several actions, the first having been brought in the State courts. Having been unsuccessful there, Giles brought an action in the United States Circuit Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

The suit was a bill in equity by a negro in his own behalf and a number of others. It alleged that by the Constitution of the State of Alabama a preliminary registration was provided for and that those who got on this preliminary list became permanently entitled to vote, and would not be subject to property or other disqualifications affecting permanent registration; that although entitled to be registered on the preliminary list, the complainant had been refused to register, and that the effect of the method of conducting the preliminary registration was virtually to disqualify the colored people in the State of Alabama, and that this was to be effected by keeping them off the preliminary list, while all of the white voters had been put upon that list.

The court below declined to grant the injunction asked for, on the ground that it had no jurisdiction. In this the court was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, but Justice Holmes, in delivering the opinion of the majority, said that the court had decided to lay aside the question of jurisdiction and go into the merits of the case, because of its extraordinary character. He declared it would be an unheard-of thing for a court of equity to give relief in a case involving purely a political question. According to one of the justices who joined in the opinion delivered by Justice Holmes, the court decided that, whatever might be an individual right in an action at law to redress political wrongs, there was no power in a court of equity to redress political wrongs of this kind; that the legitimate outcome of the power would be that the court of equity would take charge of the State government and administer it, which is an unheard-of proposition. If the remedy at law was not adequate, the relief must be sought at the hands of the political department. The decision does not pass upon the validity of the Constitution of Alabama, but simply, holding it unconstitutional, the court of equity was without power.

Justice Harlan held that the case should have been dismissed purely for want of jurisdiction. On the other hand, Justices Brewer and Brown concurred in the dissenting opinion that the Circuit Court should have reversed and should be directed to assume jurisdiction of the case. The reports are so meager that it is impossible to know how far the court's opinion goes. It may be very much broader than has been reported. It is quite certain, however, that the Alabama case is, as the lawyers say, on all fours with the case lately disposed of in this city by Chief Justice Miller and Justice Waddill, and it is fair to presume that the decision in the Virginia case will be upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

Another case, however, has been brought and is still pending in Judge Waddill's court at Norfolk, which, it is believed, will bring the constitutional question to a direct issue. This is the case of a man named Brickhouse, who brings an action for damages, not against the registrars, but against the judges of election. He alleges that he was a duly registered voter under the old Constitution and entitled to vote, and that the judges of election should have permitted him to vote, disregarding the new registration, which, he holds, was void because the new Constitution, under which it was held, is void.

It is believed that this case will bring the Federal Courts face to face with the question of the legality of the franchise clause of the Virginia Constitution, and that there will be a definite decision on this point, one way or the other, when the case reaches the Supreme Court.

A NATION'S PROSPERITY.

Several days ago we printed some "facts and figures" denoting the great prosperity which the country is enjoying, and now comes Mr. O. P. Austin, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, at Washington, with a statement, in which he says that he has been studying the statistics of our commerce for twenty years, and has never known the time in which they indicated greater prosperity, greater activity in agricultural and manufacturing or in any of the producing industries of the country than at present. He further declares that there is nothing in sight at the present time, at home or abroad, which, in his judgment, would warrant the most pessimistic

in anticipating adverse conditions in our domestic or foreign trade.

Mr. Austin then goes on to give his reasons for making this optimistic forecast. He says that his conclusions are fully supported by every local authority who has been approached for information, by a statement from the Agricultural Department, and also by the announcement of Mr. B. B. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who shows by careful reference to the custom duties and the immense amount of money seeking conservative investment how universal and healthful the present conditions are.

Our export trade for the twelve months ending with March fell in amount slightly below the figures of the two preceding years, but the reduction is due to conditions existing in the early part of the year, and not to those existing at the present time. Cotton exports for the month of March were more than \$28,000,000 against \$26,000,000 in the preceding year. Grain exports for the same month amounted to 15,600,000 bushels, against 1,200,000 bushels in March, 1907. For nine months the exports of grain were more than double those of the corresponding months of the preceding year.

The total value of the exports of iron and steel for the eight months ended with February amounted to \$63,000,000. This was a slight falling off as compared with the same period in 1907, and a material falling off as compared with 1901. But in this is found a sign of our prosperity, for it is stated that the home demand for iron and iron products is so great that we have had comparatively little of surplus iron to ship away. This statement is verified by the further statement that the imports of iron have more than doubled during the past year. Indeed, our reports generally are strikingly large, amounting in twelve months to over one billion dollars in value, being the first time that imports have ever crossed the billion dollar line.

Another sign of encouragement just here lies that these imports consist very largely of articles required in manufacturing, and as showing the wealth of the country our imports of articles of luxury are unusually large.

Again attention is called to the fact that whereas in 1894 the revenue from customs duties was about \$132,000,000, at the close of business April 25, 1908, there had been received for that much of the fiscal year as a result of the collection of revenues from customs more than \$238,000,000, and it is estimated that the receipts for the full year will be \$235,000,000. Last year we had a bumper crop of grain, yet the Agricultural Department now reports the wheat condition to be 97.8, or 15 points higher than the highest average April condition in the corresponding month for ten years suggesting a yield of 611,000,000 bushels or 133,000,000 in excess of the crop of a year ago.

Chicago bankers report that in money matters "nothing is to be desired," and railroad men in Chicago, who are in touch with agricultural and commercial matters, make declarations equally assuring.

For all that the stock market continues to be dull, with a sagging tendency, and the public generally seem not to be disposed to purchase at present prices. It may be, as we previously remarked, that the prophets of Wall Street see evidences of hard times to come, but they are not visible to the naked eye of laymen. It is hard to believe that this prosperity will continue indefinitely; but the conditions at this time are surely about as favorable as could be.

OPERATION OF THE MANN BILL.

Our Lunenburg correspondent gave an interesting account in yesterday's paper of the effort of a citizen to procure a license to keep a bar at Lunenburg Court-house. The applicant proved that he had posted the notice, as the law required, thirty days prior to the day of application, and presented to the court a petition, signed by a majority of the registered voters of the district, asking the court to grant the license.

But the judge informed the applicant that under the Mann law, he must make it plain to the court that a majority of the qualified voters were really in favor of the application; that the sale of ardent spirits at that place would not be contrary to sound public policy or injurious to the moral or material interests of the community; that he must fully satisfy the court that he would personally superintend the saloon and keep it orderly, and that the place at which it was to be conducted was a suitable, convenient and appropriate place for selling liquor, and that he was a fit person to conduct such a business.

Before hearing the application the judge ordered the sheriff to make public the proclamation that this man was about to apply for a license to conduct a saloon, and that any person who might consider that he would be aggrieved by the granting of such a license could then have himself entered and made a party defendant to said application and to defend and contest the same.

No person appeared, however, in opposition, and the judge then proceeded with a very rigid examination of witnesses, especially in regard to the sale of liquor as being "contrary to sound public policy and injurious to the moral and material interests of the community." The applicant was also made to prove that he was a "fit person" and his place a "convenient, suitable and appropriate place for the sale of liquor," and he also had to prove that he had the signatures of a majority of the qualified voters of the district. The judge required proof under oath, that every signature under the petition, was genuine and that the signers knew the object and contents of the petition.

This shows how difficult it is under the Mann law for any person to get a license from the court to conduct a saloon. We commend the judge of Lunenburg for his rigid enforcement of the law. The law is designed to prevent the sale of liquor in the rural districts, and whether or not it be a good law, it is the law and it should be enforced to the letter. The question was thoroughly canvassed, every phase of the bill was discussed in both branches of the General Assembly, Judge Mann, the patron of the bill, in

stated the fullest discussion, and gave ample time for consideration. Never trying to railroad his bill through, as the saying goes, and those members who voted for it did so fully knowing its meaning. It is now for the courts to enforce the law as it is written, and the judge of Lunenburg has set an example worthy of imitation.

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB'S DECENNIAL.

A brilliant and satisfying concert last evening closed the tenth anniversary of the Wednesday Club's annual festivals. All of the concerts have been excellent in point of artistic work and intelligent selection of numbers, but it is not upon the social or financial success achieved that the Times-Dispatch wishes to congratulate the Wednesday Club. The motives for our praise lie deeper than mere outward indications of prosperity. Other cities have doubtless had at times larger orchestras and more world-renowned, even if not better, artists to sing for their delectation, but when the number of players and the names of the singers are to be measured merely in terms of dollars, there is no more real cause for self-satisfaction on the part of a community in the possession of the one than in the presence of any other mercantile commodity.

But in Richmond the Wednesday Club has been the cause of producing a civil spirit, a widespread love for music, an ever-increasing circle of those who are constantly brought in contact with great creations from the minds of the lords of the world of music. The outward manifestation of this appreciation is shown in the character of the choruses—both those of the children and of the club itself. No mere money can get such results as those which the choruses gave during the concert, and it is because of these results, it is because of the high-class musical work which the Wednesday Club has been instrumental in creating in Richmond, that the public thanks are due to those whose well-directed efforts have brought this to pass.

With such a record we may confidently hope for a far greater widening of the scope and value of the work to be done in the next decade in Richmond by the Wednesday Club.

FREE KINDERGARTEN.

We are much pleased to know that Major James H. Capers, chairman of the School Board, is now a champion of the free kindergarten. He frankly confesses that when he went to Washington recently to inspect the kindergarten there he was somewhat skeptical, but that after seeing the work he was not only converted, but became an enthusiastic advocate of this method of training little children.

Superintendent Fox heartily concurs with Major Capers in recommending to the Council that a kindergarten be opened next session in each school district of the city.

Here is a great victory for Miss Parker and other wise and helpful women of Richmond, and we sincerely hope that the Council will act promptly and favorably on the recommendation.

As for manual training, that goes without saying. It is a necessity of modern education and no public school system is complete without it.

We are moving along. We agree with our esteemed contemporary that there is less partisanship and more courageous candor in the press today than the world has perhaps ever known before—Roanoke Times.

"Partisanship" looks like a servicable and expressive word, and sounds better than partisanship, but the lexicographers, for good reason, doubtless, do not give it the recognition it seems to deserve. It is backed up by that purist, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and general usage in time, no doubt, will gain for it that recognition now denied it by strictly correct and careful writers.—Petersburg Index-Appel.

We thank the strictly correct and careful writer of the Index-Appel for this valuable hint. Hereafter we shall eschew "partisanship," and, dear brethren, let us eschew partisanship, too, for the dictionary tells us that it is blind adherence to party or faction. Loyalty is beautiful and fidelity is lovely, but blind adherence and unworthy of a man of character and intelligence. Let us walk in the light and keep our eyes open. No man can find the truth, except by accident, with his eyes shut.

Bishop Coleman, of Delaware, has gone into a rather queer investigation, which has resulted in his discovery that there are 12,370,000 sins committed in the United States annually. It is a pity that the good bishop bunches his sins, so to speak, and just lumps the whole business to the credit, or rather discredit, of the United States. It would be exceedingly interesting if he would go into particulars and tell us how the various States stand in his estimate. We would be particularly pleased to know how many have been doing in the marriage license line in Virginia these days. The inference can be drawn that the masculine Virginians have an abiding faith that prosperity will continue.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "From the land office business the court clerks are doing in the marriage license line in Virginia these days, the inference can be drawn that the masculine Virginians have an abiding faith that prosperity will continue."

The Tyler case will get, or be gotten, before the grand jury of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Tyler says she broke into the safe at the Postoffice Department and abstracted certain papers by direction of her husband, who was ill at home. The case is further involved by the fact that Mr. Tyler was an officer of the Department and the papers were, constructively, at least, under his charge. Most of them were his personal property, but at least one is admitted to have been a government document. No conviction is expected by the public.

We are pleased to see that the city of Danville proposes to improve its water supply. Now that liquor has been abolished it is up to the city government to give the people pure water and plenty of it. And let Richmond take the hint by the forelock.

It is a sign of prosperous times. The theatre business has been very good during the season, and new buildings that will cost \$18,000,000 are at the present

time in the course of construction in the United States. Many of these structures will cost as much as a million dollars each.

J. Pierpont Morgan will pay \$500 to any man who will smash the camera of the friend who attempts to snapshot him. Here is a chance to form a combine against the great combine.

The Supreme Court decision in the Alabama case will not be a knock-out to Lawyer John W. Wise. Only the cessation of the hat-packing act will knock him out.

Everything that goes up sooner or later comes down, except the price of beef, and yet we have Sherman laws and such like.

The President says every American citizen should visit Yellowstone Park. Yes, verily, but can we all get free passes and a special car?

It will doubtless prove as difficult to keep the Russians out of China as it is to keep the Chinese out of the United States.

The old rumor that George Gould and his Wabash road are soon to arrive at Hampton Roads has bobbed up again on regular schedule time.

As the Council could not very well let the liquor men down easy, it let them down as easy as it could.

The new base-ball rules for this season do not furnish the umpire with the necessary brick-proof headgear.

The educators learned a lot of geography and other things by their trip down the James.

A head line reads: "Local politics active at Norfolk." No news about that. That is the normal condition at Norfolk.

Richmond may be squatting on some of her park ground, but she is squatting on it mightily hard.

The Jintown Expo directors are just taking a little educational trip to St. Louis.

Newport News carpenters have decided to celebrate Dewey day with a strike.

With a Comment or Two.

In the interest of suffering humanity, won't some one write a song that will take the place of "The Holy City"? Between the bootblacks and music schools, this song has been worn so threadbare you can see through it.—Austin (Tex.) Statesman.

Amen!

One remedy for the divorce evil in Virginia undoubtedly lies in requiring that divorces be heard in public session, and that the legal papers in the divorce suit be made public property. Publicity is unquestionably one of the possible remedies for divorce.—Norfolk Dispatch.

There is a good deal of sound sense in that paragraph.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch thinks that if there is another Thomas Jefferson hidden out somewhere it is a good time for him to come forward and get busy. Does not the Times-Dispatch know that Jefferson's ideas of Democracy and statesmanship are considered old-fashioned by "progressive Democrats"?—Montgomery Advertiser.

Does not the esteemed Advertiser know "progressive Democrats" need, above all things, some ideas, old-fashioned or otherwise.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Norfolk County Democrat has this view of the Mann liquor law:

"The fact seems to be that only the actual owners of the law in practical operation can determine its value as a temperance measure. In this case, as in all others, the zeal of the officers in enforcing the law will be one of the main factors in determining whether or not it will accomplish what is expected of it."

The Charlottesville Progress takes this sensible view of a question now before the public:

"It is either a reflection on the teachers or on the State that a pension is demanded for them in practical operation, that they are too thrifless to provide for old age or infirmity, or they do not receive enough compensation for their labors to enable them to do so. The latter conclusion is undoubtedly true, and it will be to the shame of the State to let them go longer so poorly paid."

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "From the land office business the court clerks are doing in the marriage license line in Virginia these days, the inference can be drawn that the masculine Virginians have an abiding faith that prosperity will continue."

The Pulaski News-Review is on the lookout. It says:

"R. A. Ayres, of Scott county, ex-Attorney-General, has announced himself a candidate for governor next year. He is a Southerner, and he is a big fellow. Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Attorney-General, and so forth."

North Carolina Sentiment.

In view of some recent occurrences the following from the Henderson Gold Leaf may be regarded as a searching question:

Broadnax, the negro murderer of Rockingham county, to try whose case a special term of court was ordered, was convicted last week and sentenced to be hanged the 22d of May. While he was being hanged his fate was to be of the delay and miscarriage of justice in the case of others of whom more was to be expected than of this simple-minded negro?

This interesting statement comes from the Raleigh Post:

We have not progressed far enough in North Carolina to let the women vote, but it seems that a way has been found to slip them into office. It is merely a coincidence that the same Legislature that elected two women school trustees in Alamance county elected a dead man to another office in one of the western counties. Were our statesmen caught napping in both instances?

The Charlotte News says: Dr. Lyman Abbott gave the Northern delegates to the Conference for Education something to think about the other day when he declared "I was a negro when I was a Southern man."

THE MAN ABOUT TOWN
—BY—
Harry Tucker

Grass is green, sky is blue!
We hope spring's come—don't you?

Mr. Frank Dayton is stage manager of the Nolle McHenry Company, but nobody, in talking with him, would think him to be more than a member of a fire department somewhere.

He is an enthusiast on fire departments. But he went out the other day to get Miss McHenry a Confederate flag. He got one, and in presenting it to her, he made a beautiful little speech, and wound up by reciting this touching little verse:

"Here are the Stars and Bars—
For you the stars,
I, perhaps, the bars;
You are the one Bright Star;
I, to the one bright bar.
But we in the North will always pause
In profound respect to the South's Lost Cause."

In talking it over, Mr. Dayton said he simply echoed the sentiments of the vast majority of people with whom he came in contact in his extensive peregrinations about the land.

We love to go to funerals. Not because we like to ride in a hack, but we think there are times when every one should go out to the cemetery and contemplate the sad, green mounds, and read the inscriptions on the sandy walks.

It is so sweet to go out to the graveyard and sit on the foot-stone of some late distinguished citizen, and think of the good he might have done if he had passed away sooner.

One of the most delightful funerals we ever attended was that of a member of our band that we used to know. And the send-off that band gave its late lamented comrade was entrancing.

Whenever we hear of the demise of a member of a band or a soldier company, we always get off a day to go to the funeral.

We were dressed and dandied and wedding marches and rag-time, and we love to hear the choir sing softly as the honorary pall-bearers pass down the aisle with their arms full of lilies and white roses and sheafs of wheat and a white pigeon.

The good men do live after them; their faults are written in the sands.

As Hinky Dee sat back in his accustomed place at the Commercial and cleared his throat, Mister Frank Anthony went over and asked him what he'd have.

"What do I want?" he said; "let me see."

Then he thought a while, and rubbed the bald spot on his head.

"I want all that man is heir to. I want a government job for life, with his pay, and I want a farm to spend my summers. I want a first-class seat in the moonlight night; a first-class horse-ball game once more; a transfer from Manchester to a Traction car; a pass to Boston; a season ticket to Ocean View and Buckroe; a bed in a breezy room, far from noise of street cars and midnight caterers; a smile from a girl; a wife who can sew my buttons on and who don't object to cigar smoke; a linen suit in warm weather; a free lunch counter of my own; any old time to wake I choose; no one to question my movements; plenty of open air exercise; lots of time to sleep; nothing to hurry me along; and—"

"Well, that's enough," remarked Mr. Anthony; "now tell me what you want to drink."

"Well, I'll take a cheese-sandwich and a Siles Johnnie cigar."

Personal and General.

Dr. F. E. Clarke is soon to leave Boston on a Southern tour in the interests of the Christian Endeavor movement.

Moseley Bushy, a native of Canada, has just died at Amsterdam, N. Y. He leaves ninety-one descendants, including twelve children, fifty-four grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren.

Joel H. Reed, of Stafford, Conn., has been nominated by the Governor of his State for Judge of the Superior Court, to succeed Judge William T. Elmer, whose term expires by age limit on November 6, 1904.

Jay Taylor, who ran the first parlor car put into service by the Wagner Palace Car Company in the summer of 1865, and has been a sleeping-car conductor ever since, died last week at Amsterdam, N. Y.

It is stated that the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions is hampered in its plans for the coming year more by lack of men than of money. It has appointed forty-two missionaries and has as yet not worked means for thirty-four more.

Bishop B. de Schweinitz, of the Moravian Church, states that for every fifty-eight communicants in the home churches there is a missionary in the foreign field, and for every member in the home churches there are more than two members in the congregation gathered from the heathen.

BARGAINS

---AT---

STIEFF'S

One Mahogany Upright,
cost, now, \$475; our
price now, \$125

One Rosewood, cost, now,
\$350; our price
now, \$250

This is a Magnificent Piano.

One Cabinet Grand Upright,
all modern improvements;
of reputable make;
originally cost \$400;
our price, \$265

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These Pianos Guaranteed.

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It is endorsed and prescribed by the best doctors. The ideal food-drink, invigorating, sustaining, NOT intoxicating. It contains 14.60% genuine nutritive extract and less than 2% of alcohol.

Sold by druggists. Prepared by

Anheuser-Busch Brewing Ass'n
St. Louis, U. S. A.

The Danvers Jewels

BY MARY CHOLMONDELEYS.

(By Special Arrangement with Harper & Bro.)

For a few minutes no one spoke. At last Marston raised his head from his

"There is no way out of it," he said, very gravely. "The robbery was committed by one of the visitors staying in the house."

"Yes," said Charles.

"Yes," echoed a whisper from the bed. Charles looked up slowly and deliberately and the eyes of father and son met again.

"We do not often agree, father," he said, in a measured voice. "I mark this exception to the rule with pleasure."

"When I had made out as much as this," continued Ralph, "father told me to call both you and Charles to consider what ought to be done before we make any move."

"Have you an inventory of the jewels?" asked Marston at length.

"None," said Sir George, "unless Middleton had one from Sir John."

"Thereupon recapitulated in full all the circumstances of the heaviest, finally adding that Sir John had never so much as mentioned an inventory."

"So much the better for the thief," said Marston, his chin in his hands. "It is not a case for a detective, is it?"

"I think not," said Charles.

A kind of hoarse, ghostly laugh came from the bed.

"Charles is always right," whispered the sick man. "Quite unnecessary, I am sure."

"Oh, I don't know," said, feeling a little better, as if much assistance as I could have wished. "Now I think the detectives are of use—really useful, you know, in finding out things. There was a detective, I remember, trying to trace the people who murdered that poor man at Jane's old house since my return."

"But who could it have been? who could it have been?" burst out Ralph, unheeding. "They were all friends. It is right to suspect one of them. One could as easily suspect one's self. Which of them all could have done a thing like that? Out of them all, which was it?"

"Carri replied Charles, quietly, looking full at his father.

If a bombshell had fallen among us at that moment it could not have produced a greater effect than that one word, uttered so deliberately. Sir George started in his bed, and clutched at the bedclothes with both hands. My brain positively reeled. Carri my friend Carri, introduced into the family by myself, was being accused by Charles. I was speechless with indignation.

"I am sorry, Middleton," continued Charles. "I know he is your friend, but I can't help that. Carri took the jewels, and he is the thief."

"Where is he at this instant?" said Marston, getting up. "Is no one with him?"

"There is no need to be anxious on his account," replied Charles. "I took him to the smoking-room before I came here and I turned the key in the door. The key is here." And he laid it on the table.

"What are your grounds for suspecting Carri?" he asked. "Remember, this is a serious thing. Charles, that you have done in looking him up,